

学校编码：10384

学号：12320111152585

分类号_____密级_____

UDC_____

厦门大学

硕士学位论文

华兹华斯与王维的比较研究

A Comparative Study between William Wordsworth and Wang Wei

郭主美

指导教师姓名：李美华 教授

专 业 名 称：外国语言学及应用语言学

论文提交日期：2014 年 4 月

论文答辩日期：2014 年 4 月

学位授予日期：2014 年 月

答辩委员会主席：_____

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2014年 月

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Abstract

As a common medium to convey human emotions universally, poetry is like a mirror that reflects the most sincere feelings of human hearts. William Wordsworth and Wang Wei, two great nature poets famous for their landscape and pastoral poems, provide us with a good example for a comparative study on English and Chinese poetry.

William Wordsworth, an outstanding poet of the Lake District in the nineteenth-century England, claimed himself as a worshipper of nature and ushered the beginning of English Romanticism; while Wang Wei, a renowned poet living in the Tang Dynasty of the eighth-century China, influenced later Chinese landscape poems by his fresh and natural style. Many similarities exist between them. First, they were both religious believers. Besides, they shared some similarities on their lives: they all experienced the social turbulence and both chose to live in close contact with nature later. Finally, from the perspective of ecocriticism, both of them could be regarded as pre-ecological poets and many of their poems reflect their ecological consciousness. As regard to the language features, both chose some similar poetic images; yet in the features of syntax and vision in their poems, many discrepancies emerged, which could be explained by the different traits of two languages as well as their different thinking patterns.

Much individual study has been made on the two poets, yet not much achievement has been made in the sphere of a comparative study. This dissertation of five parts aims at making a comparative exploration on them: Introduction briefly introduces Wordsworth and Wang Wei, and then provides a literary review of the two poets. Chapter One compares their social and personal background. Wordsworth was influenced by Christianity and Pantheism while Wang Wei was a devout believer of Chan Buddhism. Yet very interestingly both of them led an eventful life and experienced the social turbulence under their specific historical background. Chapter

Two mainly aims at presenting the ecological consciousness found in their poems. In Wordsworth's nature poems, nature has the soothing effect to the mind, and everything has its soul and is integrated into this organic world. In Wang Wei's landscape poems, everything lives in accordance with its attribute and in harmony with nature, without any interference from human beings. The correlation of their outlook on nature is the spirit of ecological holism. Chapter Three analyzes the different language features and the reasons of this discrepancy. The discrepancies on the syntax and the adoption of different perspectives construct the different representation of poetic meanings. Many of Wordsworth's poems contain the "self" and the "mind" while those of Wang Wei's are featured by an "impersonal state". Conclusion is a summary of this dissertation.

Key Words: William Wordsworth; Wang Wei; Compare; Nature; Language Feature

摘要

诗歌作为一种表达人类感情的共同方式,如同镜子一般可以呈现出人类最真挚的情感。华兹华斯和王维均是著名的山水田园诗人。通过比较研究这样两个跨时代跨地域的中英诗人作品中所具有的特点和价值,有助于加深对这两个诗人作品的理解。

华兹华斯是十九世纪英国著名的湖畔诗人之一。作为一名“大自然的膜拜者”,华兹华斯引领了英国浪漫主义运动。王维也是一名著名的山水诗人,他生活在八世纪的唐朝,其清新自然的诗风对后代中国山水诗歌的发展产生了重要影响。二者之间存在着一些相似之处。首先,华兹华斯和王维都受宗教影响。并且,在一定程度上,他们的人生境况也颇为相似:在经历了人生的跌宕起伏后,二人均选择了隐居自然。最后,从生态批评的角度来看,其作品中均反映出二人的生态意识。他们可谓是生态诗人的先驱。在诗歌语言特色上,可以看出,二者的诗歌中包含一些相似的意象;但是,反映到诗歌的句法以及创作诗歌的视角上,二者的差别较大,这是由于不同语言本身所具有的特征以及诗人不同的思维模式所造成的。

评论界对华兹华斯和王维的个体研究颇多,但在平行批评研究方面,有关二人的研究则相对较少。因此本文旨在对二者进行比较研究。论文由五部分构成。第一部分引言,进行文献综述,介绍了国内外对二人的研究现状。正文第一章对二者的文化宗教背景和个人经历进行比较研究。华兹华斯受基督教和泛神论的影响,王维则是一名虔诚的禅宗佛教信徒,但有趣的是二者均经历了社会动荡和坎坷人生。第二章集中分析两位诗人的生态观及其作品中的生态意识。华兹华斯笔下的大自然能给人慰藉和欢乐,自然界的一草一木皆有灵性,是构成这个世界不可或缺的部分。王维的山水诗中,自然生命相互协调,生命之间高度和谐,美在自美。二者的生态观的连接点是生态整体主义。第三章则针对他们诗歌中所展现的不同语言特色进行分析,并指出原因所在。句法和视角构成了二者诗歌意义呈现的不同方式。华兹华斯诗歌彰显“自我”和“心智”,而王维诗歌则以静谧冲

淡见长，有“无我之境”之特色。结论部分则对整篇论文进行总结。

关键词：华兹华斯 王维 比较 自然 语言特色

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Introduction

Poetry is a unique literary genre to convey human thoughts, as Shelley commented that poetry “lifts the veil from the hidden beauty of the world, and makes familiar objects be as if they were not familiar” (487). Based on the different culture tradition, English poetry and classic Chinese poetry differ in many ways. Yet good poetry could arouse in readers the similar feeling of beauty and sublime, and bring them an artistic enjoyment. To some degree, poetry could transcend the limitations of time and space. In the poems of different nations and different times, readers could detect that there are similar topics which convey the poets’ thoughts in one way or another.

Take William Wordsworth and Wang Wei as examples. William Wordsworth, one of the renowned romantic poets of the Lake District in the 19th century England, collaborated with Samuel Taylor Coleridge and published the *Lyrical Ballads*, a collection of poems gradually circulated and read all over the world, and most importantly, he wrote the influential *The Prelude, or Growth of a Poet’s Mind*, an autobiographical long poem, while Wang Wei, a very important Tang Dynasty poet in the 8th century China, is famous for his fresh and natural landscape poems. The tranquility and natural grace in his poems formed a self-sufficient system of organic integrity and influenced later landscape poets greatly. In the highly influential Chinese poetry anthology *Three Hundred Tang Poems*, published in the Qing Dynasty of the 18th century, the number of Wang Wei’s poems accounts for as many as twenty-nine.

In Wordsworth’s poetic world, “poetry is the spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings: it takes its origin from emotion recollected in tranquility” (Wordsworth, “Preface” xxxiii), and in Wang Wei’s landscape poems, one could appreciate the artistic conception of quietness and a state of emptiness with the overtone of Chan Buddhism. Interestingly enough, the personal experiences of the two poets share something in common: they had both experienced life’s ups and downs and, great

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